

Minutes for the August 8 EISCC Meeting:

35 people attended this meeting.

Linda Hillesheim facilitated the meeting and Elizabeth Maupin offered the opening prayer.

Agency reports

After a round of self-introductions, Warren Marquardson, **treasurer**, reported that EISCC has a total of a bit less than \$145,000 in assets, of which \$134,000 is earmarked for Congregations for Kids, a subagency.

Nancy Jacobs reported that the Bellevue School District will provide school supplies to use in the classroom this year for all students, so **Congregations for Kids** is supplying materials for use at home, plus backpacks. 1,125 backpacks are needed this year. Sorting of supplies will begin on August 9 at Tillicum Middle School.

Barbara de Michele reported for the **Eastside Human Services Forum**. They will meet this Thursday and welcome Bothel as a new member of the forum. They are looking for a new director.

Tracie Jones reported for **Hopelink** that they do have a back to school campaign running from August 14 to 24th with a hope of getting them into the foodbank and then helping them with ancillary services. There's also a financial capabilities class where people can come into the offices and work with a financial planner. To get an appointment, call your local Hopelink office. Most likely for this group it would be the Redmond Center. In September another course for education literacy class will be offered. There is the GED program and an employment program.

No **legislative report** this month.

Main Presentation

The first presenters were Philip Peters and Winnie Au from **Renewal Food Bank**. The food bank is open 3 days a week and last year served about 300 families per week. That number has increased to 400 families per week in 2023. They have also seen more large households. It is a grocery store style food bank. "when you shop for some of the most essential items such as meat and produce as well as things like diapers and other hygiene items, you're directly working with a volunteer who's working to meet your specific needs." People select anywhere from 50 to \$200 of free items -- beautiful things -- excellent quality food.

Peter spoke appreciatively about their host, the Highland Covenant Church, and partners, including Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest, the grocery rescues, as well as QFC, Safeway, Target, PCC, Town and Country, Amazon Fresh, and the Asian Family Market..

To better serve non-English speakers from Russia, China, the Latino community, Ukrainian and other Eastern European nations they have signage in a variety of languages, often with photos. The sign-up sheets come in 4 languages. They also recruit volunteers who speak other languages than English. They have also expanded the service area and widened aisles to accommodate people in wheelchairs and generally enhance the shopping experience.

The ideal volunteer is one who commits to a specific day every week, but it is “also great when someone comes in every other week or monthly or maybe you get a group together and you come in and you help us do a deep clean and restock shelves with great intention or organize some closet space that needs a little revisiting.” Some volunteers come from those who are served. Volunteering helps to fight loneliness.

Financial contributions help the food bank to maintain a stock of staples such as milk and eggs, and cope with the expanding needs. You can go to our website and donate directly. All contributions are appreciated, but Renewal is especially looking to build sustainable relationships.

Our second presenter was Lisa Firebaugh from **Platefull**, a fully 100% donation funded non-profit, that seeks to fill a gap in food services. They noticed that some folk can't get to places like Renewal Food Bank or Jubilee Reach or even HopeLink. It's very difficult and cost prohibitive for them to get on a bus with their children to get there. So Platefull volunteers bring food directly to communities and individuals in need. They pick food up from their partners: grocers, restaurants, agencies, food banks, and meal services and deliver it to about 150 people a week, serving an area stretching from north Bellevue to Skykomish, to North Bend, and down to Factoria. The food is tailored to the client's need. People can also come to their location on Monday mornings. Platefull (<https://www.aplatefull.org/>) also helps with clothing, paper products, and gas cards. Their focus is on building relationships. They are currently in need of drivers.

Lisa can be reached at 206 822 4038 or info@aplatefull.org

Announcements:

Hopelink Markets are handing out backpacks August 14-24, 2023 in the Carnation, Kirkland and Redmond markets.

Hopelink's Financial Capability Program provides free, professional financial coaching to help members of our community sort through complex economic challenges and build long-term financial stability. There is no income eligibility requirement to access our services, and we can also provide on-demand interpretation in multiple languages as needed. In addition to financial coaching, we also offer customizable financial education classes. We collaborate with many community partners to provide financial education classes based on topics most relevant to their clients. We can provide courses virtually and in person. For more information, please get in touch with Donna O'Connor. DOConnor@hopelink.org

<https://www.hopelink.org/need-help/financial-capabilities>

Redmond City Council has set aside money in their budget to develop a capacity to do community response to mental health crises and related crises in Redmond and staff has come forward with a recommendation not to use the money for that. Susan Cozzens recommends that

those who believe that we actually need this non police response to nonviolent non-criminal situations write to the Redmond City Council.

Congregations for the Homeless and Sophia Way are in need of meals. Congregations for the Homeless are offering tours of their new facilities on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 pm every week and they like to keep the group at 15 or less. Contact Tom Kirby.

ZoomCare Free Nights Healthcare services on the second Wednesday of every month. Cost-free clinic appointments from 6-9pm. Seattle location at Bellevue & 4th. ZoomCare Free Nights | ZoomCare. They may offer mental health therapy as well now.

Renewal Food Bank has a wish list of needs that would provide a specific goal for fundraising. We have shoppers that line up outside beginning 6 hours or more before we open. We need to create a more humane outdoor waiting area - shelter to protect from the sun or the rain. We are in need of more reliable cold storage - both refrigeration and freezers. We can see the need for an additional van in our near future. Thanks to the many congregations that regularly support us both with donations and with referring those in your congregations to our services.

From Lena Bernal, NAMI Eastside -- I am teaching a 7 session CBT skills building class virtually for Bellevue residents experiencing housing instability. There is a \$100 gift card incentive for anyone who participates. contact lena@nami-eastside.org for additional information about NAMI Eastside.

On September 9 there will be a grand opening of the Together Center in Kirkland. MCRC and Essentials First have offices there now.

Bellevue Nourishing Network meets the first Wednesday of every month from 3pm-4pm on zoom and in person if any organization would like to host!

Kirkland Nourishing Network meets the second Tuesday of every month from 4-5pm via Zoom

Issaquah Nourishing Network meets the third Tuesday of the month from 3 to 4:30 PM
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84254825772?pwd=dmNYTmZUakNSb2lqaGZvR1JkS2U5UT09> Meeting ID: 842 5482 5772, Passcode: 773655

The **Washington State Lived Experience Coalition (LEC)** needs your support. Your contribution will help the LEC to amplify: 1) working with system stakeholders to end homelessness, 2) advocating for equitable and people-centered system change, 3) building community to support our unsheltered neighbors, and 4) providing leadership development & economic empowerment opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness. To become a sponsor or make a donation of any size, please use the following payment methods:

- Donate via the [LEC PayPal Account link](#).
- Make checks payable to ***“Lived Experience Coalition”*** and send to **“33180 42nd Place SW, Federal Way, WA 98023”**.

Please RSVP to buy a ticket at our LEC [Eventbrite link](#) by August 20 **for our celebration on August 23, 5-9 PM at the Filipino Community Center, 5740 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., Seattle 98118. Tickets are \$125 per person.** For sponsorship details, questions about the event, or if you would like to attend but cannot afford the ticket price, please contact Finance Committee Chair, Alice Nawas at 480-567-2044 or send her an email at wearewalec@gmail.com. For questions about LEC feel free to email our Communications Director, Michelle Eastman at Michelle@wearelec.org.